United Nations

Report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

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NOTE

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In accordance with recommendation 37 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,[1] as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, a high-level meeting of all States participating in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was convened at Geneva from 26 May to 2 June 1980 to carry out an overall, intergovernmental review of technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) within the United Nations development system. The report of the first session of the intergovernmental body[2] was considered by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session. In its resolution 35/202 of 16 December 1980, the General Assembly decided to change the name of the high-level meeting to High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and requested the Administrator of UNDP to convene the next session of the Committee under the same organizational and procedural arrangements as had been made for the high-level meeting.

2. The second session of the High-level Committee met in New York from 1 to 8 June 1981 and its report[3] was considered by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session. In accordance with the agreement reached at the Committee's second session and endorsed by the Assembly at its thirty-sixth session, the structure of the third session of the High-level Committee consisted of the Committee in plenary meeting and only one working group, and this practice has been followed at subsequent sessions.

3. The third session of the High-level Committee met in New York from 31 May to 6 June 1983 and its report[4] was considered by the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session.

4. The fourth session was held in New York from 28 May to 3 June 1985. Its report[5] was considered by the General Assembly at its fortieth session.

5. The fifth session was held in New York from 18 to 22 May 1987 and its report[6] was adopted on 27 May 1987. The General Assembly considered that report at its forty-second session.

6. The sixth session was held in New York from 18 to 22 September 1989 and its report[7] was adopted on 29 September 1989. The General Assembly reviewed that report at its forty-fourth session.

7. The seventh session was held in New York from 28 to 31 May 1991 and its report[8] was adopted on 6 June 1991. The General Assembly considered that report at its forty-sixth session.

8. The eighth session was held in New York from 25 to 28 May 1993 and its report[9] was adopted on 4 June 1993. The General Assembly considered that report at its forty-eighth session.

9. The ninth session was held in New York from 30 May to 2 June 1995. The General Assembly considered that report[10] at its fiftieth session.

II. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. Date and place of the session

10. The tenth session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries was held in New York from 5 to 9 May 1997.

11. In accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 35/202, the session was convened by the Administrator of the UNDP under the usual procedural arrangements.

B. Attendance

12. The following States Members of the United Nations participating in UNDP were represented at the session:

Algeria
Argentina
Armenia
Australia
Austria
Bangladesh
Benin
Bolivia
Brazil
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Chile
China
Colombia
Costa Rica
Cuba
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Djibouti
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Eritrea
Fiji
France
Gabon
Gambia
Germany
Ghana
Guatemala
Guinea
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Ireland
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan
Lebanon
Lesotho
Malawi
Malaysia
Mali
Malta
Mexico
Mongolia
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Nepal
Netherlands
Niger
Nigeria
Pakistan
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Rwanda
Saint Lucia
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Singapore
South Africa
Suriname
Sweden
Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Uruguay
Uzbekistan
Venezuela
Viet Nam
Zambia
Zimbabwe

13. In addition, the representatives of the Observer Missions of the Holy See and Switzerland to the United Nations, which also participate in the work of UNDP, attended the session.

14. The following regional commissions were represented:

Economic Commission for Europe

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

15. The following United Nations bodies were also represented:

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

United Nations Development Programme

United Nations Environment Programme

United Nations Population Fund

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements

16. Representatives of the following specialized agencies and related organizations attended the session:

International Labour Organization

International Atomic Energy Agency

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

World Health Organization

Universal Postal Union

United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization

International Maritime Organization

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

World Intellectual Property Organization

International Fund for Agricultural Development

17. The following intergovernmental organizations, which have received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly, were represented at the session:

Latin American Economic System

Organization of African Unity

Organization of American States

Organization of the Islamic Conference

Pan American Health Organization

18. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations attended the session as observers:

Arab Organization for Agricultural Development

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

South Pacific Forum Secretariat

Statistical, Economic and Social Research Institute for the Islamic Countries

C. Opening of the session and election of the President

(Agenda items 1 and 2)

19. The tenth session of the High-level Committee was opened, on behalf of the Secretary-General, by the President of the ninth session, Mr. Soemadi D. M. Brotodiningrat.

20. Mr. Momodou Kebba Jallow, Permanent Representative of Gambia to the United Nations, was elected President of the High-level Committee by acclamation.

D. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

(Agenda item 4)

21. The High-level Committee adopted the agenda (TCDC/10/L.1) and the organization of work (TCDC/10/L.2). A general debate was held in the plenary meetings, from 5 to 9 May, on items 5, 6 and 7. The Working Group, which began its work on 7 May, was assigned agenda items 5, 6 and 7 for substantive discussion and recommendations to the Committee. For a list of documents considered by the Committee at its tenth session, see annex II to the present report.

E. Election of officers other than the President

(Agenda item 3)

22. The following officers were elected by acclamation:

Vice-Presidents: Ms. M. Patricia Durrant (Jamaica)
Ms. Helen Browne (Ireland)

Rapporteur: Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg (Mongolia)

23. The High-level Committee approved the President's recommendation that Ms. Patricia Durrant (Jamaica) should serve as Chairman of the Working Group. It was subsequently agreed that the Chairman should also serve as Rapporteur of the Working Group.

III. REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION

(Agenda items 5, 6 and 7)

A. Statement by the Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

24. In his opening statement, the Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme noted the significant increase in the interest in technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) and South-South cooperation in the recent past as a strategy for ensuring the effective participation of the developing countries in the emerging global economic order. He referred to the South-South Conference on Trade, Finance and Investment, held at San José, Costa Rica, from 13 to 15 January 1997, and the conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in New Delhi in April 1997, which identified practical initiatives to advance such cooperation. He also referred to the importance placed on South-South cooperation in the reform proposals of the Secretary-General.

25. The Associate Administrator stated that the increased interest in TCDC was partly due to the availability of relevant technical capacities in the developing countries, especially in East Asia and Latin America. He indicated that increased levels of growth in the developing countries coupled with the demographic revolution, which would locate an increased proportion of the world's population in the South, were likely to shift the dynamics of growth to the developing countries making TCDC all the more important as a strategy of development. He also stated that globalization demanded increased cooperation among developing countries in order that the less developed among them would not be marginalized.

26. The Associate Administrator mentioned that in recognition of those developments the High-level Committee at its ninth session had adopted the new directions strategy focusing on such priority issues as trade and investment, poverty eradication, environment, production and employment and macroeconomic policy formulation and management; seeking operational integration between TCDC and economic cooperation among developing countries (ECDC); identifying TCDC pivotal countries and involving them in cooperative undertakings with other developing countries; and expanding the TCDC-Information Referral System database (INRES) into a multi-dimensional user-friendly information system.

27. Regarding the implementation of the new directions strategy, the Associate Administrator highlighted a number of initiatives supported by the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries in respect of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Asia-Africa cooperation in the context of the Bandung Framework for Asia-Africa Cooperation and cooperation between Latin America and the economies in transition in East Europe and Central Asia. He also referred to other efforts, such as the exchange of experiences among small enterprises, replication of successful poverty eradication measures in Latin America and the Caribbean, formation of technical networks on biosystematics in South-East Asia, the Pacific region and East Africa, the establishment of the International Network on Small Hydropower and the support provided to the Group of 77 and China, the South Centre and the Third World Network to identify policy options for trade and investment and to enable the developing countries to respond to the challenges and opportunities of globalization.

28. The Associate Administrator stated that the elaboration of the programmatic framework for the promotion of TCDC enshrining the new directions strategy was provided in the TCDC cooperation framework for the period 1997-1999. The framework covered two broad areas of activities, namely, support for sustainable human development and the promotion of TCDC. The effort would be facilitated by the separate allocation of resources for TCDC by the Executive Board and the resources likely to be available through the Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation, established in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 50/119 of 20 December 1995.

29. The Associate Administrator expressed the hope that the three main reports providing information on implementation of TCDC and its promotion by the United Nations development system, supplemented by the presentations to be made by selected delegations on their TCDC experiences, would help the High-level Committee to carry out an in-depth review of TCDC and to provide guidance on the subject.

B. Introduction of the reports by the Director of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries - highlights of the progress reports

30. The Director of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries introduced the following three reports submitted for the consideration of the High-level Committee:

(a) Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the decisions of the High-level Committee and the recommendations of the South Commission (TCDC/10/2);

(b) Progress made in the implementation of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC/10/3);

(c) Consideration of reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (TCDC/10/4) on implementation of the guidelines for the review of policies and procedures concerning technical cooperation among developing countries and on organizational and supportive arrangements for technical cooperation among developing countries.

Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the decisions of the High-level Committee and the recommendations of the South Commission

31. The report provides an analytical summary of the information received from member Governments, organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system and select intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on the policies and activities undertaken to promote and apply TCDC during the biennium 1995-1996.

32. Despite internal institutional, attitudinal and resource constraints, TCDC continues to be a modality widely used by developing countries in bilateral, subregional, regional and interregional arrangements. All responding countries recognize the need to foster understanding of the concept of TCDC and its procedures and mechanisms and to adopt effective TCDC policies. Sensitization workshops, strengthening of national focal points and the identification of capacities and needs have received considerable emphasis in most countries.

33. A number of countries allocated significant resources for TCDC activities from their national budgets, and/or UNDP country allocations. This is particularly true of countries such as Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ghana, Haiti, Indonesia, India, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Seychelles, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, Tunisia and Turkey.

34. A number of regional institutions such as the Latin American Economic System (SELA), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as the Third World Network, as well as intergovernmental organizations such as the South Centre have played an active role in the promotion of TCDC and ECDC.

35. Only three developed countries, namely, Austria, France and the Netherlands, have indicated specific assistance in support of TCDC. But many developed countries directly or indirectly support TCDC; Japan, for example, allocated $2 million for South-South cooperation during 1997.

36. In UNDP, an effort has been made by the regional bureaux and country offices to integrate TCDC in national and regional technical cooperation programmes. In Africa-Asia cooperation efforts, Latin America and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) cooperation programmes, regional programmes in Arab States and regional cooperation programmes in Asia and the Pacific, the regional bureaux have played important roles, sometimes initiating and on other occasions supporting cooperation programmes.

37. The Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries continues to serve as a catalyst and an active partner with national Governments and organizations and agencies of the United Nations system in promoting and monitoring the global application of TCDC. During the fifth cycle the Special Unit supported in excess of 130 interventions globally in four broad categories of activities: (a) promotion and sensitization; (b) enhancement of national capacities for the management of TCDC; (c) capacities and needs matching exercises and subject-specific workshops; and (d) the sponsorship of studies and evaluations in respect of TCDC activities.

38. Other organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system have similarly played an active role in supporting TCDC, both in terms of articulating approaches to the concept in their respective areas of competence and in executing specific TCDC projects. For example, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has been particularly active in the promotion of South-South trade and finance; the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in supporting Group of 77 initiatives for cooperation; the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in introducing a specific mechanism for use of technical resources of the developing economies; and the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in applying the TCDC modality through decentralization of their operations to the regions and subregions. The regional economic commissions have contributed significantly to advancing South-South cooperation by promoting regional and subregional cooperation in different fields.

39. It is difficult to assess accurately the exact level of resources allocated by the United Nations development system in support of TCDC. However, it is estimated that UNDP allocated approximately $50 million during the biennium 1995-1996.

40. Despite the considerable progress made in recent years in promoting TCDC, a number of policy-related, institutional, attitudinal and procedural problems would need to be addressed if the full potential of TCDC is to be realized. Firstly, many developing countries still need consciously to integrate TCDC as a central element of their national development strategy. Secondly, they need to put in place appropriate institutional arrangements to support the effective functioning of TCDC focal points with both human and financial resources. Thirdly, considerable attitudinal barriers still need to be overcome. Finally, financing of TCDC would need to be substantially increased by all development partners through allocations from national budgets of developing countries, earmarked aid of donor countries for triangular cooperation and mainstreaming of TCDC in the activities of multilateral donor agencies.

Progress made in the implementation of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries

41. The report presents a brief outline of the new directions strategy and identifies initiatives that have been implemented in support of the strategy. Specific examples of such initiatives relate to support provided for the implementation of the small island developing States technical assistance programme; follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in terms of exchange of successful urban management experiences; cooperation between Latin American countries and the economies in transition in East Europe and Central Asia; the replication of successful poverty eradication experiences in Latin America; and the establishment of biosystematics networks in East Asia, the Pacific and East Africa.

42. An example of targeting the private sector is the programme of exchange of experiences among small enterprises while the increased links with NGOs is reflected in the support provided to the Third World Network. These initiatives reflect a conscious strategy of incorporating new actors in the implementation of TCDC. An effort to reorient capacity and needs matching exercises is reflected in the Haiti exercise and the follow-up action in respect of the Bangladesh exercise. The establishment of the International Network on Small Hydropower in Hangzhou province in China represents a noteworthy achievement in the area of the environment. A TCDC/ECDC linkage is also reflected in the support provided to the South-South Conference on Trade, Finance and Investment held at San José, Costa Rica, in January 1997.

43. A number of countries have been identified as pivotal countries to serve as catalysts for the promotion of TCDC as envisaged in the new directions strategy. As an important element of the new directions strategy, TCDC-INRES is being updated and expanded into a multi-dimensional user-friendly information system.

44. The TCDC technical cooperation framework for 1997-1999 will serve as the main instrument for implementing the new directions strategy. It will be facilitated by the separate allocation of funds by the Executive Board of UNDP and the establishment by the General Assembly of the Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation. An allocation of $2 million by the Government of Japan for South-South cooperation has been used to fund a number of projects.

45. The framework document envisages activities in two broad categories, namely, support for sustainable human development objectives and promotion of TCDC. It also sets out the principles and criteria that will govern the implementation of the various programmes and projects to be carried out within this framework.

Consideration of reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

46. The report is in two parts. The first part deals with the implementation of the guidelines for the review of TCDC policies and procedures by the United Nations development system. The organizations of the United Nations development system have found the guidelines to be effective and they have facilitated the expansion of the use of TCDC. A number of these organizations have benefited from sensitization efforts and decentralization arrangements and many of them are continuing to elaborate these guidelines in accordance with their particular needs.

47. In view of the continued validity of these guidelines, it was decided to acquire more experience with them before reporting to the Administrative Committee on Coordination. They will, however, be reviewed in the meeting of the agency focal points following the High-level Committee meeting.

48. The second part deals with organizational and supportive arrangements for TCDC. Information on staffing of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and the resources available for programming during the biennium is provided. During the 1992-1996 cycle, the Unit allocated $11.4 million for the funding of various projects. In 1996 it also received an allocation of $2 million from Japan. For 1997-1999 the resource availability is estimated at $16.9 million and additional funds are expected from the Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation.

IV. SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL DEBATE

A. Overview

49. The general debate was initiated by the Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations, who spoke in his capacity as Chairman of the Group of 77 and China at the United Nations. He stressed the increasing significance of TCDC as an effective mechanism for facilitating the exchange of experiences among developing countries and for promoting collective action in support of their overall development as well as ensuring their effective participation in the evolving global economy. He stated that with the apparent weakening of the commitment to development cooperation on the part of the traditional partners, TCDC and South-South cooperation represented the best hope for the developing countries in the context of the emerging global order, although it should not be seen as a substitute for traditional development cooperation. He highlighted some of the TCDC achievements of the past 20 years. He noted that, in general, the exchange of experiences among developing countries had demonstrated the efficiency, cost-effectiveness and relevance of TCDC as an instrument of development cooperation. TCDC projects and programmes had also generated increasing improvement in national ownership in formulating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating development activities. There was a growing awareness of the TCDC modality and its potential and an increasing commitment to identifying priorities to enhance the effectiveness of that form of cooperation. He noted, however, that structural and cultural rigidities and, most importantly, the lack of financial resources had adversely affected the progress in the utilization of the TCDC modality.

50. He stated that the international community was slowly recognizing that the future belonged to South-South cooperation and commended the Government of Japan for its efforts to support such cooperation. He observed that it was encouraging that both the South-South Conference on Trade, Finance and Investment, held at San José, Costa Rica, in January 1997, and the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in New Delhi in April 1997, had formulated important blueprints for action on the part of the developing countries, and indeed the international community as a whole, in seeking to advance South-South cooperation.

51. He urged developed countries and the United Nations system to increase support for TCDC. He said that lack of awareness and lingering scepticism regarding the efficacy of the TCDC modality had prevented the optimal utilization of the modality.

52. He concluded by advancing four specific proposals:

(a) Convening of a special one-day session of the High-level Committee in 1998, possibly during the General Assembly, to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action;

(b) Holding of a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation to address, inter alia, the challenges presented by globalization;

(c) Maintenance of the separate identity of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries within UNDP and its provision with adequate resources to carry out its mandate and the new directions strategy;

(d) Reaffirmation of the importance of the role of the High-level Committee and possible expansion of its mandate to include a review of ECDC.

53. Most developing countries indicated their support for the views expressed by the Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

54. The representative of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the European Union as well as Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Norway, Romania and Slovenia, stated that TCDC and South-South cooperation were important tools for promoting development cooperation. He emphasized nevertheless that the responsibility for TCDC lay first and foremost with the developing countries themselves. Donor countries, therefore, needed to play a supportive role in fostering the increased use of the TCDC modality in development cooperation. He expressed the view that activities at the regional and subregional level offered good prospects for TCDC.

55. He supported the concept of networking and stated that it provided a good basis for solving common problems. He stated that Internet accessibility could facilitate the dissemination of relevant information and that it should be added to the list of priorities for TCDC. Population was seen as an issue of some strategic significance because of its relevance to the achievement of sustainable human development goals. Networking and the use of Internet facilities were also seen as eminently suitable for the application of TCDC, which could prove more fruitful than other forms of development cooperation.

56. He drew attention to five important issues:

(a) TCDC should be integrated in the overall work of the United Nations development agencies;

(b) A regional approach to TCDC would increase the chances for successful cooperation, in view of similarities of geography, language and sociocultural circumstances;

(c) The impact of TCDC would increase if the funds available to United Nations development agencies were to be used in a more focused manner, rather than spent on a large number of small projects with the risk of diluting their impact;

(d) Regional and subregional offices of UNFPA, ILO, UNICEF, FAO and UNDP should be encouraged to harmonize their efforts and to work together more closely; and

(e) In order to make the work of the High-level Committee more productive and interactive, consideration should be given to improving its present format and working procedure.

57. There was general satisfaction among delegations with the renewed interest in TCDC in recent years, but it was recognized that the rich potential of the modality was far from being fully realized. The developing countries had made considerable progress in establishing national focal points for TCDC and in using the modality, particularly in bilateral exchanges among themselves. However, in a number of countries, national TCDC policies were still not well articulated nor was the TCDC modality fully utilized as the preferred option in development cooperation. Financial constraints and attitudinal barriers also

served as major impediments to the expansion of the application of the TCDC modality.

58. Most delegations underscored the primary responsibility of the developing countries in promoting and applying the TCDC modality. Consequently, the main responsibility for identifying appropriate partners, determining specific methods of cooperation and establishing achievable goals lay with the developing countries themselves. For that reason, they needed to set up internal structures and procedures for ensuring that first consideration was given to TCDC in formulating technical cooperation programmes, as is required by Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/41.

59. Most delegations recognized that in the context of globalization TCDC could serve as a powerful force for ensuring the equitable participation of the developing countries in the world economic system. Developed countries were therefore urged to promote TCDC and to provide financial support for its application.

60. Most delegations welcomed the strategic thrust of the TCDC interventions within the framework of the new directions strategy. The focus on high-priority issues such as macroeconomic policy, trade, investment, debt management, employment creation, poverty eradication and the environment was considered essential for sustainable human development. It was generally acknowledged that such a focus would provide a major development boost to the developing countries. Some delegations suggested that informatics, population dynamics, education and health care should also receive increased attention in the context of efforts to promote TCDC.

61. Most delegations supported triangular cooperation arrangements and urged donor country funding of such programmes. It was felt that third-party funding for TCDC would significantly expand the application of the modality and that it should therefore be institutionalized. Some delegations felt that the cost-effectiveness of TCDC should be more widely publicized in order to ensure that it was better appreciated by the donors.

62. The increased use of information technology was recognized by many delegations as a powerful tool for promoting TCDC. In that context, the conversion of TCDC-INRES into a multidimensional information system was warmly welcomed. Information on successful examples of TCDC projects would also contribute to increased awareness of the importance of the modality. Some delegations felt that Internet accessibility for the developing countries would constitute a worthwhile investment for TCDC.

63. Most delegations supported the forging of a closer operational linkage between TCDC and ECDC. Consequently, the need for TCDC to be more thoroughly integrated into the broader strategy of South-South cooperation was stressed.

64. Most delegations emphasized the importance of involving the private sector and NGOs in TCDC, since a broad base of support and participation was necessary for TCDC to be effective. The increasing involvement of those new actors in TCDC activities was also noted by many delegations. The relevance of the role of the media in promoting TCDC was also mentioned in that context.

65. Many delegations referred to the marginalization of the least developed countries and the difficult economic situation confronting them. In particular, concern was expressed regarding the difficult development problems and

challenges facing Africa. It was proposed that special attention be given to ways to enable those countries to benefit from TCDC.

66. Most delegations stressed the need to maintain the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries as a separate unit within UNDP and for the Unit to be provided with adequate resources to enable it to carry out its mandate. Most delegations welcomed the establishment of the Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation and urged donors to provide generous contributions to the fund.

67. One of the special features of the general debate in the High-level Committee was the effort to promote a more interactive pattern of exchange among delegations by inviting comments on issues raised in the statements of the various delegations. One of the issues that was raised during the exchange was the meaning of South-South cooperation and the terminology used to denote its various aspects. South-South cooperation was considered to be the generic concept of which TCDC and ECDC were two integrally related elements. It was explained that TCDC involved the exchange of technical expertise, training and the pooling of technical resources among developing countries whereas ECDC referred to wider economic cooperation arrangements. Another important exchange that took place during the debate related to the integration of TCDC in the technical cooperation programmes of the United Nations development system. It was agreed that the Special Unit should continue to monitor the mainstreaming of TCDC in all programmes of the system. The need for increased assistance to the least developed countries in the context of TCDC also featured in the exchange. Finally, it was proposed that consideration might also be given to the possibility of focusing on special themes or topics during future sessions of the High-level Committee.

B. Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the decisions of the High-level Committee and the implementation of the recommendations of the South Commission

68. Most delegations provided information on their TCDC and South-South cooperation policies and activities and others, especially the regional commissions and other United Nations development system agencies, supplemented the detailed information already provided in the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (TCDC/10/2).

69. Many delegations agreed with the recommendations that developing countries still needed to formulate national policies and to put in place or strengthen established structures and national focal points. A number of delegations shared the view that TCDC must be consciously internalized by the developing countries and its use given first consideration in formulating technical cooperation programmes. TCDC programmes should support efforts by developing countries to adapt to the newly emerging global economy and to respond to the increasing shift towards a liberalized global trading regime.

70. A number of agencies and organizations of the United Nations system reported that their programmes have supported centres of excellence for South-South cooperation; stimulated private-sector development; fostered regional cooperative agreements, such as those relating to research, development and training in nuclear science and technology. These initiatives were undertaken through training programmes, seminars, facilitation of regional cooperation agreements, establishing networks and regional training centres.

71. The main constraints to the promotion of TCDC, as reported by many delegations and agencies, included structural and cultural differences; lack of financial resources; insufficient awareness of the benefits and potentials of TCDC; limited access to information; inadequate human resources; and lack of coordination among the various government agencies involved in technical cooperation. One delegation stated that the difficult economic and social situation and the weakness of international efforts to coordinate TCDC were among the many factors hindering the full implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

72. Several delegations expressed their appreciation for the FAO Framework Agreement on the Use of Experts for TCDC.

73. One delegation stated that his Government had taken a number of initiatives towards making South-South cooperation and TCDC, in particular, a mechanism of choice and policy strategy in its national development and comparative programmes. In this context, a national coordinating committee comprising government ministries and the private sector had been set up to oversee the overall implementation of TCDC. Many delegations reported the improvement in national ownership in formulating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating TCDC programmes and activities. Awareness and recognition of the potentiality of TCDC modality has grown steadily.

74. Many delegations urged the United Nations development system to increase its efforts in the promotion and implementation of TCDC and intensify the use of the TCDC modality as an important instrument of programme delivery.

75. Some delegations emphasized that South-South cooperation and TCDC should not be based on conditionality, should show respect for national priorities and should reflect full participation of all institutions and actors.

76. One delegation stressed that TCDC must involve, respond to and be accountable to the people who would live with the results and therefore their participation in the decision-making process was important.

77. A number of delegations believed that a regional approach to TCDC would increase the chances for successful cooperation. Special attention should, therefore, be given towards strengthening subregional and regional integration and horizontal cooperation within the South-South context. One delegation pointed to the need for system-wide coordination of all TCDC activities, particularly within the United Nations system.

78. Some delegations emphasized the need to intensify the efforts towards broadening the base of support and participation, especially by the private sector, NGOs and the media, in promoting TCDC.

79. A number of delegations expressed the view that the full realization of TCDC objectives could only be assured in a wider framework of international development cooperation. The true value of TCDC could only be seen if it helped developing countries achieve sustained economic growth and development. Some delegations believed it prudent to broaden the funding base for TCDC by tapping resources from intergovernmental, non-governmental and private sector organizations. It was felt that more innovative and flexible funding mechanisms should be developed to achieve that goal. In that connection, the contributions from Japan and the Republic of Korea to the Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation were highly appreciated.

80. Great concern was expressed by a number of delegations regarding the inactive TCDC focal points in a number of least developed countries and the absence of focal points in a number of other countries. This had impeded their awareness of TCDC opportunities, thus precluding access to opportunities offered by the more advanced developing countries. In this context, some delegations urged the United Nations development system to intensify efforts to address the special needs and difficulties of the least developed countries, small island States and the landlocked developing countries and to help strengthen their capacities for undertaking TCDC activities. Some delegations stressed the importance of viable infrastructure and efficient transit transportation, which were crucial for encouraging trade.

81. Some delegations called for a more systematic approach to carrying out capacity and needs matching exercises so as to ensure that resulting cooperation programmes were better monitored and effectively implemented.

82. Some delegations stressed the need to concentrate limited resources on strategic initiatives that could generate significant and long-term impacts on the economic development of the cooperating countries.

83. Some delegations emphasized the need for innovative means and new initiatives for implementing the existing agreements among developing countries emanating from recent meetings, such as the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in New Delhi in April 1997, and the South-South Conference on Trade, Finance and Investment, held at San José, Costa Rica, in January 1997, in order to ensure that all parties fully benefited from existing mechanisms. One delegation stated that it is the responsibility of the developing countries to establish, define and implement their own agenda. Another delegation made it clear that "no one can do for us in the South what we are not prepared to do for ourselves". The TCDC modality could and should express that determination to act.

84. Several delegations supported the forging of a closer operational linkage between ECDC and TCDC. Many delegations expressed the view that TCDC, ECDC and South-South cooperation were fundamentally related, although they had originated in different forms, and that the operational integration of TCDC and ECDC was needed. The greater integration of TCDC/ECDC within an integrated programme under the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries was welcomed by a number of delegations. Furthermore, South-South cooperation was an essential mechanism for promoting accelerated economic growth, development and self-reliance. The TCDC modality was an important vehicle for the strengthening and enhancement of South-South cooperation. Greater efforts should, therefore, be made at all levels to increase awareness of the TCDC modality, to sensitize all actors of its existence and to highlight the cost-effectiveness in an economic sense and the appropriateness and adaptability in technological terms.

85. Most delegations supported the proposal for the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action in 1998.

C. Progress in the implementation of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries

86. Many delegations reiterated their full commitment to the new directions strategy for TCDC endorsed by the High-level Committee in its decision 9/2 adopted at its ninth session in 1995. One delegation noted that the new directions provided a new boost to TCDC and served as a "philosophical compass" for the implementation of TCDC in the current international economic and political climate. In that regard, a large number of delegations supported closer operational integration between TCDC and ECDC. Another delegation noted that TCDC was not merely a modality of cooperation, but also a philosophy of self-help and a means to empowerment of the South and was part of a larger development paradigm involving national development efforts and establishing appropriate international synergies.

87. A number of delegations reported on their TCDC activities relating to the implementation of the new directions strategy. Some delegations, particularly those representing countries in East, South-East and South Asia, Latin America and Africa, with relatively large bilateral TCDC programmes offered to other developing countries, provided information on the different types of TCDC activities they had implemented with other developing countries both in their region and in other regions.

88. A number of delegations pointed to continuing constraints that had hampered full implementation of the new directions strategy. One critical constraint had been the lack of adequate financial resources, both from national budgets and from traditional sources of development assistance to support TCDC activities and another was the ineffective functioning of TCDC national focal points.

89. The concept of pivotal countries, expounded by the new directions strategy, featured in the debate. A number of delegations sought clarification on the special arrangements contemplated by the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries to assist the pivotal countries to serve as catalysts for further promotion and application of TCDC. One delegation suggested a meeting of the selected pivotal countries in order to clarify the position and prepare an action plan.

90. Many delegations commended the establishment of the Trust Fund for South-South cooperation and hoped that it would meet a part of the resource gap that inhibited greater TCDC and ECDC. They appealed for increased contributions to the Trust Fund by donor countries as well as by more advanced developing countries.

91. Some delegations reported that the lack of access to information on capacities of other developing countries and the lack of knowledge of TCDC mechanisms were important constraints that need to be overcome in order to realize fully the potential of TCDC. In that connection, a number of delegations also requested the United Nations development system to assist them in a more proactive manner in integrating TCDC into the development activities supported by the agencies and organizations.

92. Some delegations commended the United Nations agencies that had supported TCDC activities through access to information and TCDC funding schemes. The Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries was commended for its catalytic financial support for TCDC activities in many areas of priority of developing countries. It was particularly encouraged to continue

its efforts in expanding the information on capacities of developing countries contained in the TCDC-INRES and its plan to develop a multi-dimensional TCDC database to contain information on experts, centres of excellence and successful and replicable TCDC experiences and best practices in the agreed areas of focus.

93. A number of delegations supported the expansion of triangular cooperation arrangements. It was specifically suggested that regional and international financial development institutions should also participate in the triangular cooperation arrangements. Many were of the view that this form of cooperation offered real possibilities in addressing their development priorities.

94. Some delegations recalled that TCDC or South-South cooperation involved an important principle of shared cost by the developing countries themselves. Implementation of South-South cooperation in its many forms was ultimately the responsibility of the developing countries.

95. Finally, some delegations expressed the view that it would be useful if some further guidelines were provided to developing countries on implementing new directions strategy and disseminating them widely to all concerned. Such guidelines might include a definition of roles by Governments, NGOs, the private sector and the United Nations development system, and an indication of all possible sources of funds.

D. Case studies of technical cooperation among developing countries experiences

96. In keeping with the decision of the High-level Committee at its ninth session, the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, in consultation with the Bureau of the Committee at its ninth session, invited a number of countries and intergovernmental organizations to prepare and present case studies on their experiences in implementing TCDC to the Committee at its tenth session.

97. Accordingly, the Latin American Economic System (SELA), Trinidad and Tobago, on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), and eight countries, namely, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, China, Senegal, Tunisia, Turkey and the United Republic of Tanzania, made presentations of their experiences with TCDC. The main issues and recommendations that emerged from the presentations of the case studies are summarized below.

98. Although most developing countries had long-standing bilateral TCDC relations, in the wake of recent trends towards globalization, TCDC was increasingly being recognized as an important instrument for enabling countries of the South to participate effectively in the newly emerging global order.

99. The case studies indicated that developing countries had sought to promote a genuine sense of interdependence among themselves in the understanding that each country had resources and capacities to offer as well as needs to be satisfied by others. In respect of such problems as poverty, unemployment and indebtedness faced by many developing countries, the studies showed that many countries had taken the initiative to formulate clear policies and appropriate institutional arrangements in order to ensure a coordinated approach to those problems within the framework of TCDC.

100. It was emphasized that national focal points played a decisive role in the success or failure of TCDC. In Latin America the national focal points

regularly coordinated their policies and programmes on a regional basis and that had contributed significantly to the promotion of TCDC in the region.

101. While stressing the need for self-reliance and solidarity in harnessing the capacities that existed among developing countries, most of the case studies acknowledged that TCDC was a complementary instrument rather than a substitute for North-South cooperation. For that reason, Bangladesh, Senegal, Turkey and other countries favoured broad-based partnerships that included triangular relations with traditional donors and developing countries.

102. Presentations by Brazil, China, Tunisia and Turkey indicated that the more advanced developing countries had become an important factor in the emerging TCDC partnerships.

103. It was recognized that the promotion of development cooperation among developing countries needed to be made more inclusive by encouraging closer collaboration between Governments, the private sector and the NGO community.

104. Recognizing the decline in official development assistance (ODA), a number of countries called for innovative approaches to resource mobilization among developing countries. For example, China and Turkey had made plans to pool resources by working jointly in organizing workshops and seminars on personnel management and public administration for their mutual benefit. For its part, Brazil had a new mechanism to support TCDC in the form of a cooperation fund designed to benefit States members of the Organization of American States (OAS) that sought Brazilian technical cooperation.

105. The case studies suggested that, as more developing countries became providers of expertise to other countries in the South, the importance of triangular cooperation had become all the more salient in South-South cooperation. For example, France has contributed financial assistance to enable Senegal to provide magistrates in the Comoros and Djibouti and French language teachers to Seychelles.

106. Turkey commended the FAO approach to the use of experts from developing countries while Brazil reported having used that model successfully in various projects on agriculture, forestry and fishing.

107. It was recommended that the TCDC modality should be integrated in the technical cooperation programmes of the United Nations system. To that end, Turkey proposed that closer collaboration should be forged between national TCDC focal points and UNDP country offices. It was also suggested that UNDP projects in selected countries that were ongoing or awaiting approval should be reviewed with a view to identifying the need for experts and training that could be met by utilizing capacities in developing countries. It was also recommended that practical steps be taken to make TCDC the preferred modality in operational activities of UNDP. That could be done by instituting a series of operational guidelines: (a) the decision to use the TCDC modality should be taken at the time of preparing country programmes; (b) TCDC should be inscribed as an item under all major components of any project; and (c) the approval procedure for every programme or project should specifically ascertain the applicability of the TCDC modality.

108. Many countries stressed the need to concentrate development efforts on strategic areas that could have a significant impact on the development prospects of developing countries. In that regard, most case studies emphasized trade and investment, debt, economic management, environment, poverty alleviation, small and medium-sized enterprises, technology transfer, employment creation and the coordination of macroeconomics policy.

109. It was emphasized that capacities and needs-matching exercises supported by TCDC should continue to be demand driven. Moreover it was recommended that the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries should continue to monitor the implementation of the agreements concluded among countries participating in such exercises.

110. The case studies on a select number of countries and organizations provided a useful opportunity for the sharing of TCDC experiences in the context of the deliberations of the High-level Committee. The presentations were also welcomed as an important innovation in the organization of the work of the Committee.

E. Consideration of reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

111. In the interventions of several agencies, there was a heightened appreciation of the increased application of TCDC policies and procedures in their respective work programmes during the reporting period. Several cited examples of TCDC instrumentalities, such as networking among institutions and the documentation of best practices in their operational activities and their concerted efforts in using the capacities of the developing countries. Some agencies highlighted attempts to forge the operational integration of TCDC in the context of their ECDC activities. The continued validity of the guidelines was emphasized. The usual agency focal points meeting timed to follow the High-level Committee meeting is scheduled in May 1997.

112. In consideration of the organizational and supportive arrangements for TCDC, there was unanimity among the delegations on the need to preserve the separate identity of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries within UNDP. It was noted that .05 per cent of the UNDP overall programme resources was allocated for the programming of TCDC activities during the period 1997-1999.

V. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

A. Report of the Chairman of the Working Group to the High-level Committee

113. At its sixth meeting on 9 May 1997, the Committee considered the report of the Chairman of the Working Group to the High-level Committee. In addition to its normal business of considering decisions, the Working Group was assigned three tasks following the discussions in the plenary meetings. These additional tasks involved consideration of (a) the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, (b) the linkage between TCDC and ECDC, and (c) the format of the meeting of the High-level Committee. The Working Group carried out its mandate by formulating two draft decisions and additional recommendations on the format of the meeting. Decision 10/1 of the High-level Committee, part A, paragraphs 13, 14, and 16, along with the recommendations on the format of the meeting, covered the three items specifically assigned to the Working Group.

114. The Working Group recommended that the Bureau and the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, in considering the duration of the eleventh session, should take into account the following suggestions without prejudice to the policy-making function of the High-level Committee: (a) an interactive plenary meeting with short focused interventions; (b) presentation of a limited but representative number of case studies reflecting the themes in the new directions strategy (including at least one on the experience of least developed countries) and involving participating countries, and where relevant, United Nations organizations and agencies, the international financial institutions and organizations such as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the South Centre, as well as independent experts. The High-level Committee meeting should be organized sufficiently in advance to allow appropriate representation and preparation by delegations. Those making presentations should arrange to circulate the case studies well in advance; (c) a working group to consider the outcome of the meeting (drafts could be prepared in advance of the meeting on the basis of the documentation provided and informal consultations); and (d) a concluding plenary.

115. The decisions including the recommendations on the format of the meeting were adopted by the meeting (decisions 10/1 and 10/2). Turkey suggested that prior to the commemorative meeting in 1998 an attempt might be made to prepare an analytical inventory of the major TCDC activities carried out since the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

B. Provisional agenda for the eleventh session of the High-level Committee

116. Breaking with the tradition of the past, the Bureau proposed and the meeting approved that, in view of the adoption of the new format for the next meeting of the High-level Committee and the recommendation to the General Assembly to hold a commemorative meeting on TCDC during its fifty-third session, the agenda for the eleventh meeting should be prepared and circulated by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme after consultation with the Bureau of the High-level Committee well before the eleventh meeting of the Committee.

C. Comments by the Director of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

117. The Director of the Special unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries acknowledged the many suggestions made by the delegations that would be beneficial for the implementation of the technical cooperation framework for TCDC for the period 1997-1999. He also welcomed the interactive nature of the debate in the meeting and the new practice of presenting case studies which allowed delegations to exchange information on their experiences in implementing TCDC programmes. He stated that the debate was constructive and served to clarify the concept of TCDC both as a philosophy and a modality. He thought that the debate had also clarified the meaning of ECDC and TCDC and their relationship to the generic concept of South-South cooperation.

118. He considered the task of preparing an inventory of TCDC activities since 1978 to be somewhat daunting, but agreed that a compilation of major TCDC initiatives during the period, including successes or failures, could be very instructive. He welcomed the invitation from Chile to hold a meeting of pivotal countries for TCDC to agree on the measures that will be necessary to allow these countries to serve as effective catalysts for the promotion of TCDC. He emphasized that the promotion of TCDC and the wider application of the modality ultimately depended on the commitment and political will of the developing countries. At the same time, the United Nations development system and the donors also needed to be supportive of the efforts of the developing countries. As for the Special Unit, he assured the Committee that it would not only continue to be supportive but also play a proactive role under the new directions strategy.

D. Draft report of the High-level Committee

119. At its sixth meeting, on 9 May 1997, the Committee authorized its Rapporteur to complete its report, taking into account any amendments or comments received from delegations.

VI. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

A. Closing statement by the Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

120. In his closing statement, the Associate Administrator thanked the President, the Bureau and the members of the High-level Committee for the inspiration and direction that they had provided during the meeting. He particularly expressed thanks to the delegates who had come from the various capitals to share their practical experience and insight in dealing with issues related to TCDC. He reiterated the commitment and support of UNDP to implement the recommendations and decisions of the Committee and stated that the Special Unit in particular would give due attention to them in implementing the new directions strategy.

121. The Associate Administrator welcomed the innovative way in which the tenth meeting conducted its business. The experiment with the new format for the plenary debate had encouraged more interaction and dialogue among delegations. The case study presentations had been very useful in stimulating an exchange of experiences among members of the Committee. He thought that the decision to deal in future with thematic issues would contribute to a much more focused and constructive discussion of issues before the Committee.

122. He noted the interest of the delegations in promoting closer linkage between TCDC and ECDC and their increasing importance in the emerging global economic order. He was also gratified by the decision of the Committee to request that the President of the General Assembly convene a commemorative meeting to mark the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of Buenos Aires Plan of Action and hoped that it would serve to underscore the importance of TCDC at this stage of the evolution of international economic cooperation.

B. Closing statement by the President

123. The President congratulated the delegations and the secretariat on the results of the eleventh meeting of the High-level Committee and thanked all concerned for their active participation. He was particularly appreciative of the work and efforts of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries. He noted in particular the harmony and enthusiasm with which the Committee had transacted its business. He thanked specifically the Chairman of the Group of 77 and China and the representative of the European Union for their continued commitment to TCDC.

124. He stated that the new directions strategy had breathed new life into TCDC. Its wider application was being facilitated by greater awareness about the value of the modality. He recognized that the spirit of the United Nations pervaded the work of the High-level Committee and also of its Bureau. He considered that the message of the meeting was one of commitment by all members to international economic cooperation in which South-South cooperation was a crucial element.

Notes

[1] Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978 (United Nations publications, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

[2] Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/35/39 and Corr.1).

[3] Ibid., Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/36/39).

[4] Ibid., Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/38/39).

[5] Ibid., Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/40/39).

[6] Ibid., Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/42/39).

[7] Ibid., Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/44/39).

[8] Ibid., Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/46/39).

[9] Ibid., Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/48/39).

[10] Ibid., Fiftieth session, Supplement No. 39 (A/50/39).

ANNEX I

Decisions adopted by the High-level Committee at its tenth session

10/1. Review of progress made in implementing technical cooperation among developing countries

A. Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the decisions of the High-level Committee and implementation of the recommendations of the South Commission report

The High-level Committee,

Reaffirming the validity and relevance of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,[a]

Taking note of the declaration adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 and China at their twentieth annual meeting, held in New York in September 1996,[b]

Taking note also of the Declaration and the Plan of Action adopted by the South-South Conference on Trade, Finance and Investment, held at San José, Costa Rica, in January 1997,

Taking note further of the final document of the Twelfth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in New Delhi, India, in April 1997,

Taking note of the report prepared by the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries within the United Nations Development Programme,[c]

1. Reaffirms the great potential of technical cooperation among developing countries, which has now gained widespread acceptance as an innovative and effective instrument of technical cooperation, and urges developing countries that have not yet done so to elaborate national policies and strategies for technical cooperation among developing countries so as to give full effect to this form of cooperation;

2. Welcomes the significant efforts made by both developing countries and the United Nations development system to increase the application of technical cooperation among developing countries in development cooperation and its increasingly important role in bilateral and multilateral relations, including, inter alia, the expanded use of capacity and needs-matching exercises, which have culminated in a significant number of bilateral agreements, as well as activities related to training, transfer of technology, reconstruction and the

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[a] Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

[b] A/51/471, annex.

[c] TCDC/10/2.

exchange of experience in various fields within the framework of interregional cooperation;

3. Welcomes also the efforts made by other countries to increase their involvement in the application of technical cooperation among developing countries;

4. Notes with appreciation the actions already taken towards the expansion of the technical cooperation among developing countries Information Referral System database into a multidimensional information system, including data on individual experts, institutional capacities, centres of excellence, as well as replicable best practices in developing countries, recognizes the constraints of the effective use of this database, in this regard, calls upon the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries to take measures, including capacity-building, aimed at enabling the least developed countries to access international information networks, for example the Internet, so that they can effectively utilize the technical cooperation among developing countries Information Referral System database;

5. Commends the developing countries that have allocated resources from their national budgets for technical cooperation among developing countries through bilateral and multilateral channels, and have made available their institutional facilities, expertise and centres of excellence for this purpose;

6. Encourages developing countries that have not yet done so to establish national focal points for technical cooperation among developing countries and where focal points have already been established to ensure that the focal points are adequately staffed and also appropriately equipped to enable them to function effectively and efficiently;

7. Reiterates that South-South cooperation should not be viewed as a substitute for but rather as a complement to North-South cooperation and, in that connection, emphasizes the need to effectively promote triangular approaches to facilitate South-South programmes and projects;

8. Encourages developed countries that already provide support for technical cooperation among developing countries in the context of triangular arrangements or through bilateral and multilateral channels to continue to increase their financial support for technical cooperation among developing countries, including contributions to the Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation, and calls upon other developed countries to do likewise;

9. Reiterates the recommendations of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action that international institutions and developed countries, in designing, formulating and executing projects for technical cooperation in developing countries, give priority to the use of local capabilities, consultancy and expertise and, where not available, to the technical resources from other developing countries;

10. Requests the organizations of the United Nations system to take appropriate measures to improve the incorporation of technical cooperation among developing countries into their programmes and projects and to intensify efforts towards the mainstreaming of this modality in the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and encourages other relevant international institutions to undertake similar measures;

11. Calls upon organizations of the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and other relevant organizations to make concerted efforts, within their mandates

and agreed programmes, to assist the developing countries to utilize technical cooperation among developing countries for the promotion of small- and medium-sized enterprises, which constitute an essential component in the development strategies of most developing countries;

12. Calls upon the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to continue efforts to mobilize greater donor support in order to increase the allocation of resources for technical cooperation among developing countries including the expansion of the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund's core capital and support to the South Centre in accordance with decisions taken by the High-level Committee at its ninth session;

13. Recommends that the intergovernmental processes of the United Nations system, in accordance with their mandates and agreed work programmes, as well as the High-level Committee, foster closer linkages on policy and operational aspects between technical cooperation among developing countries and economic cooperation among developing countries;

14. Also recommends that a new format and working methods be applied to the conduct of future meetings in order to lead to a more interactive debate and a more concrete outcome to the deliberations of the High-level Committee, taking into account the suggestions of the Committee as contained in the report of the tenth session;

15. Welcomes the important focus that will be given to economic and technical cooperation among developing countries in the operational activities for development segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council of 1997, and strongly recommends that the report of the High-level Committee on its tenth session and the report on new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries[d] constitute part of the background documents for the consideration of this item;

16. Notes with interest that 1998 will be the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, and recommends that during its fifty-third session the General Assembly hold a commemorative meeting to mark the occasion and to mobilize further support for the effective implementation of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries;

17. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to submit to the High-level Committee at its eleventh session a comprehensive and analytical biennial report on the progress made in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action as well as the present decision.

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[d] TCDC/10/3.

B. Review of the progress made in the implementation of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries

The High-level Committee,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 50/119 of 20 December 1995 and related resolutions of the Economic and Social Council on economic cooperation among developing countries and technical cooperation among developing countries,

Recalling its decision 9/2 of 2 June 1995 adopting the main recommendations contained in the report on new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries,

Reaffirming that South-South cooperation constitutes an important element of international cooperation for development, and reiterating that developing countries have a primary responsibility for promoting technical cooperation among developing countries and that the developed countries and the United Nations system as well as other international organizations should assist and support such activities,

1. Recognizes that, while some progress has been made in the implementation of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries, further progress can be achieved more effectively through, inter alia, the availability and provision of adequate resources, strengthening the participating institutions and enhancing the awareness of and the commitment to the technical cooperation among developing countries modality;

2. Recommends that the intergovernmental processes of the United Nations system, in accordance with their mandates and agreed work programmes, as well as the High-level Committee, foster closer linkages on policy and operational aspects between technical cooperation among developing countries and economic cooperation among developing countries;

3. Further urges the United Nations development system to address effectively and operationalize the implementation of other recommendations contained in the new directions strategy, in particular, new funding arrangements, expansion of the technical cooperation among developing countries Information Referral System database, identification of pivotal countries for technical cooperation among developing countries, promotion of triangular cooperation arrangements and dissemination of best practices in technical cooperation among developing countries;

4. Commends the efforts being made to promote improved, expanded and diversified linkages with the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society;

5. Welcomes, in the context of follow-up to the Programme of Action on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and within the framework of the Small Island Developing States Technical Assistance Programme, the completion of a comprehensive directory of experts on small island developing States and the identification of critical areas in the programme of action for implementation, through the application of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality;

6. Welcomes also the establishment of the Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, notes with appreciation the contribution of some developed countries to the

Trust Fund, and urges the international donor community to contribute generously;

7. Welcomes the cooperation framework for technical cooperation among developing countries (1997-1999)[e] and its focus on poverty eradication, environment, production and employment and trade, investment and macroeconomic management;

8. Welcomes the decision of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme to allocate .05 per cent of its overall programme resources to technical cooperation among developing countries during the period 1997-1999;

9. Calls upon developing, developed and other countries, their intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, to give their full support to the effective implementation of the technical cooperation among developing countries framework, including support for innovative national, regional and interregional programmes and projects and the expanded utilization of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality in the operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

10. Reiterates its request to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to instruct resident representatives to increase the application of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality in technical cooperation activities in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/41 of 30 July 1992;

11. Calls upon the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to ensure that the separate identity of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries within the United Nations Development Programme is maintained and decides to review periodically the impact and functioning of the Special Unit in promoting, monitoring and coordinating technical cooperation among developing countries on a system-wide basis;

12. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to include in his biennial report to the High-level Committee at its eleventh session information on the progress made in the implementation of the present decision.

10/2. Overall framework for the promotion and application of technical cooperation among developing countries

The High-level Committee,

Recalling its decision 9/3 of 2 June 1995,

Taking note of the guidelines for the review of policies and procedures concerning technical cooperation among developing countries approved by the Administrative Committee on Coordination,

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[e] Decision 95/23 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund (E/1995/34).

Taking note also of the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme,[f]

1. Takes note of the views and comments expressed at the tenth session of the High-level Committee on making the application of the guidelines more effective in order to ensure greater use of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality in the United Nations system, which now forms a new current in development cooperation;

2. Commends the United Nations agencies that have taken measures to apply the guidelines approved by the Administrative Committee on Coordination and urges the organizations and agencies that have not yet done so to take similar measures in order to ensure uniformity and consistency in the application of the guidelines;

3. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to carry out consultations on the guidelines with the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, taking into account the views expressed by Member States and the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries, and to submit the recommendations on the subject to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council, for further consideration and approval, with a view that recommendations will be submitted to the fifty-third session of the General Assembly in the context of the triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

4. Notes with appreciation the increased financial resources allocated for technical cooperation among developing countries by the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme for the programming period of 1997-1999 and, in the light of the expanding utilization of this modality, requests the Executive Board to review periodically the volume of resources allocated for the promotion of technical cooperation among developing countries, as well as the impact of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality on the implementation of the programmes of the United Nations Development Programme and incorporate the outcome of the reviews in the report of the High-level Committee for consideration;

5. Stresses the need to further mobilize additional financial resources, from all sources, with a view to assisting the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries to further implement and operationalize the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries;

6. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in relation to the mandated functions and increasing responsibilities of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, to ensure that the Special Unit is adequately staffed to enable it to execute its responsibilities effectively;

7. Also requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to report to the High-level Committee at its eleventh session on the implementation of the present decision.

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[f] TCDC/10/4.

ANNEX II

List of documents before the High-level Committee at its tenth session

TCDC/10/L.1	Provisional annotated agenda, including list of documents
TCDC/10/L.2	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
TCDC/10/1	(Not issued)
TCDC/10/2	Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the decisions of the High-level Committee and the recommendations of the South Commission
TCDC/10/3	Progress made in the implementation of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries
TCDC/10/4	Consideration of reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme:

(a) Implementation of the guidelines for the review of policies and procedures by the United Nations development system concerning technical cooperation among developing countries;

(b) Organizational and supportive arrangements for technical cooperation among developing countries, such as administrative, legal, information and financial arrangements